quantum of troops deployed in the State of Jammu and Kashmir is continuously assessed and reviewed by the Army based on the changing threat perception.

Withdrawal of troops from J and K

†3710. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of withdrawal of troops from Jammu & Kashmir has started;

(b) the number of troops withdrawn so far;

(c) the total number of troops proposed to be withdrawn; and

(d) by when this work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The quantum of troops deployed in the State of Jammu and Kashmir is continuously assessed and reviewed by the Army based on the changing threat perception.

Strategy regarding safety in Indian Ocean region

†3711. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the concerns of India regarding safety in the Indian Ocean region;

(b) whether any strategy has been made to deal with these concerns; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) India's security concerns in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) are primarily related to the following aspects:-

(i) Territorial disputes,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) Trade and goods movement along shipping lanes,

(iii) Sustained presence of Multinational Forces in IOR,

(iv) Asymmetric and Law Intensity Maritime Threats, and

(v) Economic offences from the sea.

(b) and (c) India's geographical position is astride the major shipping routes in the Indian Ocean Region. This necessitates continuous and sustained presence of and surveillance by its maritime assets in its territorial waters, Exclusive Economic Zone and other areas of maritime interest. India is also having regular interaction with the Indian Ocean Region littoral States. Cooperaiton with our maritime neighbours in the field of sharing information on ship movement, platform signatures, exercises, long standing constructive engagement and coordinated patrols along International Maritime Boundaries, etc., in order to maintain good order at sea, is also a part of the strategy.

Defence officers joining private sector/MNCs

3712.SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Willt he Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many officers of defence forces have been quitting to join private sector and MNCs;

(b) if so, the details of officers who left defence forces during last three years and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that there is no security risk to the country by their association with non-government organizations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Senior Officers of the Armed Forces are not permitted to negotiate for commercial employment in private sector while in service. Further, Officers of the rank of Colonel and above (and equivalent ranks in Navy and Air Force) are required to obtain permission of the Government before taking commercial employment within two years of the date of retirement. Before granting this permission the competent authorities have to satisfy themselves *inter-alia* that any official information, knowledge or contacts which the officer might have gained while in service would not be used to give the prospective